

The Socialist AND The Sword

LEAFLET NUMBER TWELVE.



From "War—What For?" by Geo. R. Kirkpatrick.

A sword is a three-foot razor with which the working class obligingly and stupidly cuts its own throat in war.

War is a fools' festival in which the working class crucifies itself in the service of capitalism in the name of patriotism.

Patriotism is perfect and glorious in proportion as the starved slave is willing to fight for a fat master.

Patriotism (of this sort) is a brainless, blinding fever that employers and bankers, bishops and politicians eloquently recommend for others, but cunningly never catch themselves—at present under capitalism.

Capitalism, strutting and staggering under the insane burdens of militarism,—capitalism, the present industrial despotism, is motived by robbery, dreads discussion, seduces culture, flatters the foolish, needs the sword, glorifies force, sneers at tears, pretends peace, fattens on war and teaches patriotism to slaves.

For half a hundred centuries this hate-laden madness called patriotism has paralyzed and blinded each new generation of the working class, rendering them the easy, self-slaughtering dupes of a crafty ruling class.

Thus have the workers been duped and stung till now.

Till now.

Light breaks—now. This is the sun-flooded morning of a new era—for the working class.

Slaves see—now. And therefore, this mocking farce, this hideous tragedy, called war, grows clear in the brain of the working class.

The slave is studying capitalism, and therefore he sees the meaning of capitalist patriotism, and as the slave understands capitalism and its necessary patriotism, he understands war.

And as the wage-slave understand war he understands that Capitalists **WANT wars**,

Politicians **DECLARE wars**, and

Workingmen **FIGHT the wars**.

In all parts of the world the working class are accepting the Socialists' definition of war:

WAR IS WHOLESALE, SCIENTIFIC SUICIDE FOR THE WORKING CLASS IN THE DEFENSE OF THE ECONOMIC INTERESTS OF THE RULING CLASS.

The **SOCIALIST** Party is **OF** the working class, **FOR** the working class and **BY** the working class—and, therefore, the

Socialist Party in every country the sun shines on is opposed to wholesale throat-cutting contests between deluded and betrayed groups of the working class for the amusement and profit of fat-pursed social parasites of capitalism. Socialists strive to socialize society, and have faith in peace as a condition of rapid social progress; and, therefore, they are consistently and persistently against war. "NO MEN TO BE MURDERED AND NO MONEY TO BE WASTED IN WAR" is their slogan all around the world.

The Socialists recognize that war is not social, and is not fraternal, and is not fair; they see that **VICTORY ALWAYS GOES TO THE SUPERIOR IN FORCE**, absolutely regardless of the moral merit of the armies and questions involved; they see that war is savage resort to brute force, and that, therefore, war does not measure or mete out justice, but simply measures the warring countries' comparative equipment in tiger and savage, cannon and cash.

Socialists observe groups of capitalists seeking and threatening war for **FOREIGN** markets for goods which the workers produce, but which their **WAGES WILL NOT PERMIT THE WORKERS THEMSELVES TO BUY AND ENJOY**. And this the Socialists teach diligently to the working class—to warn the working class. Socialists see groups of profit-lusting capitalists, ready with swaggering armies and navies, in many parts of the world, greedily grabbing territory on which to grind and rob still more of the working class. This also is patiently explained to the working class by the Socialists—ever opposed to the slaughter of the toilers. Socialists observe sleek and crafty capitalists everywhere lolling, smiling and safe in their elegant offices and homes, cunningly forcing their lick-spittle capitalist governments to protect capitalist investments in foreign lands, by wars if necessary. This, too, is tirelessly explained to the workers by the Socialists—to warn the toilers, ever eager to save the blood and tears of the working class.

The Socialists understand that International Farce, called The Hague Peace Conference; they note the pompous pretense and the laughable impotence of The Hague Conference of Cowards who are too afraid to go to war, too brainless to prevent a war, and too feeble and prostitute to warn the **WORKING CLASS** against war. The Socialists point out that that Conference was fully and vigorously promoted by the blood-stained Tsar of Russia, who, though a member of the Conference, when a war seemed to suit his economic interests, with mocking irony promptly spat on the Conference and inaugurated the bloodiest war of modern times—all in the blessed name of "patriotism," of course. The Socialists mark well the Italian Government, member of the Conference, scorning the Conference when it suits Italian capitalist interest, and, with the holy blessings of the Church, engaged in a horrible capitalist war, laughing at The Hague Conference, dignifying its brutality with the cheapened phrase, "Christian patriotism"; the Socialists draw aside the curtain and strip the hypocrite's mask from the most noisy, foxy and distinguished member of The Hague Peace Conference, Andrew Carnegie, and remind the world, especially the working class, that "patriotic" Andrew Carnegie and his "patriotic" steel company sold steel armor for battleships to the Russian Government at one-half the price they charged their own dear country for the same armor. That "thieves' banquet" of glittering plutocrats

and prostitutes, cunningly called The Hague Peace Conference—that also is explained by the Socialists to the workers of the world.

The Socialists see all the governments of the world that are members of The Hague Peace Conference, without faith and faithless, shrewdly mouthing the words "Patriotism" and "Peace," yet feverishly increasing their armies and navies, preparing for wars in which to win a lion's share of the world's profits at the cost of the blood and tears of the working class. All these things, and more, the Socialists explain to the working class—to **WARN** the **WORKING** class.

The Socialist Party is the vanguard of the working class in its grand march upward to freedom. The Socialist Party is the First Regiment in the silent and bloodless war for peace—armed with information and discussion instead of ignorance and dynamite; armed with the printing press and the ballot instead of the Gatling gun and the bullet. The Socialist Party is boldly warning the **WORKING** class of the world against war—**URGING THE WORKERS TO REFUSE TO GO TO WAR.**

Wars, modern wars—in almost **ALL** cases—are between jealous groups of the parasitic ruling class in their swinish international scramble for territory, markets and profits. In these wars the workers cut their own throats (ignorantly shouting "Patriotism!"), and wade in their own blood (ignorantly shouting "Patriotism!"), while the crafty capitalist class, at home, safe and far from the firing line, clap their soft hands together, wink knowingly, and cunningly shout "Patriotism!"

In war the workers' blood is spilt, the workers' tears are despised, the workers' children are orphaned, the workers' wives are widowed, the workers' lives are robbed to pay war taxes and war bonds and war bond interest, the workers' health is blasted, the workers become the hobbling cripples insulted with stingy petty pensions while distinguished, high-salaried judges (whose lives are never risked where the cannon roar) are fattened on pensions of thousands per year. In war the workers have nothing to gain and all to lose. The workers are learning these things well, very well. The Socialists are striking these facts of war into the brains of the working class in all parts of the world. Indeed, even the best informed and most distinguished **ENEMIES** of the Socialist Party in all the world admit that the Socialists are persistently and effectively warning the working class against war.

But the **GREAT** war is the **CLASS** war, the **CLASS STRUGGLE**—the war between the capitalist employer class and the wage-earning working class—between the exploiting class who **OWN** the **INDUSTRIAL FOUNDATIONS** of society and live on profits, and the exploited class who productively **USE** the **INDUSTRIAL FOUNDATIONS** of society and live on wages—the industrial war, in which the employers struggle to beat down the price of labor power and the workers struggle to force up the price of labor power. **THIS IS THE FUNDAMENTAL WAR**, the **SOURCE** of war, the war without an end—while capitalism lasts. In this war of clashing **CLASS** interests other wars originate. And in this struggle rises the Socialist Party—the political organization of the working class, the political right arm of the working class, the legalized army of the working class, with which the working class is cunningly (intelligently) seizing the political powers of society, and thus

legally getting into legal position for strategic SELF-DEFENSE—to legally CONTROL the industrial foundations of society for the benefit of all who are willing to work—to give to all who are willing to work EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY TO WORK, and to give to every worker the value of his applied labor power, undiminished by rent, interest and profits.

The Socialist Party lives and strives to FREE the working class—lives and strives, nationally and internationally, TO PLACE THE FEET OF ALL THE PEOPLE FIRMLY UPON THE INDUSTRIAL FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIETY; strives to CONNECT EVERY LIFE WITH THE SOURCE OF LIFE, by making every member of society a joint owner of the industrial foundations of society; that is, a joint owner of the dominant means of production.

The Socialists are rousing, teaching, warning, moving the workers of the world. Mankind feels this international impulse, thrills to warless Socialism. Civilized mankind is rapidly rousing from a race-cursing spell. Soon every red-throated cannon on earth will boom no more—silenced forever. The tears of the war-robbed widows and war-orphaned children and the blood of the world's strong men will cease to stain the earth, and never again on great battlefields will foul birds feast on the shattered corpses of working class youths torn from the trembling embrace of fond mothers and forced to face the storms of lead and steel—to stupidly decide (for their masters) which country is the superior, AS A FIGHTER.

The SOCIALISTS proclaim to the whole world: WE DO NOT WANT OTHER PEOPLE'S BLOOD AND WE REFUSE TO WASTE OUR OWN. IF THE MASTERS WANT BLOOD LET THEM CUT THEIR OWN THROATS.

WAR—WHAT FOR?

This work of Comrade Kirkpatrick's is the most scathing condemnation of the brutal game of war ever written. It strips the mask of patriotism and pious pretense from the thieves' game and leaves it exposed in all its demoralizing and vicious errors. It should be read by every one who has the interest of himself and his family at heart. It will show him what answers to give when next his ruler demand cannon food.

Remember, "War, What For" by Geo. R. Kirkpatrick; \$1.20, postpaid. Address, Western Clarion, Vancouver, B. C.

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